

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were canceled and Claims 19-30 were pending when last examined. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Double Patenting

Claims 19-30 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-45 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,654,032. According to the Examiner, “Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the present Application and U.S. Pat. No. 6,654,032 discloses the following....” (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner’s rejection is based on the mistaken idea that the *disclosure* of another patent or application can serve as the basis for judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. That is not the case. A rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting requires a comparison of the claims in the pending application against the *claims* of the prior patent. In particular, as provided in MPEP § 804 (II)(B)(1):

Any obviousness-type double patenting rejection should make clear:

- (A) The differences between the inventions defined by the conflicting claims -- a *claim* in the patent compared to a claim in the application; and
- (B) The reasons why a person of ordinary skill in the art would conclude that the invention defined in the claim in issue is an obvious variation of the invention defined in a *claim* in the patent.

(emphases added).

Here, the Examiner uses the *disclosure* of U.S. Pat. No. 6,654,032 as the basis for obviousness-type double patenting rejection. The Examiner has not compared the *claims* of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,032 against Claims 19-30 of the present Application. As such, the

rejection of Claims 19-30 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting cannot stand and must be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 19-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Quatrano et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,748,420). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 19 recites, *inter alia*, “A distributed system for collaborative computing comprising: a web zone for allowing a plurality of client computers to access the distributed system via a global-area network, the web zone having at least one web server; a meeting zone for supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers....” These limitations are not disclosed in Quatrano et al.

The portions of Quatrano et al. cited by the Examiner as disclosing these limitations do not contain any description of a “zone,” much less the “web zone” and the “meeting zone” recited in Claim 19. Indeed, there is simply no description whatsoever in Quatrano et al. of any “zone”—“web zone,” “meeting zone,” or otherwise.

Claim 19 further recites, “a meeting zone for supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers, the meeting zone having a meeting manager, a plurality of collaboration servers, and a plurality of application servers, wherein: the meeting manager is operable to manage the on-line conference in the meeting zone; each collaboration server is operable to host at least a portion of the on-line conference; and each application server is operable to support at least one service for the on-line conference.” Contrary to the Examiner’s assertions, such limitations are not disclosed in Quatrano et al.

In rejecting Claim 19, the Examiner generally cites broad portions of Quatrano et al. as disclosing the “meeting zone,” the “meeting manager,” the “collaboration server, and the “application server” of Claim 19, but does not point to any specific item of Quatrano et al. as being any of these claimed limitations. It is clear why. The Examiner simply cannot do so. This is because Quatrano et al. does not disclose each and every one of the limitations of

Claim 19. In essence, the Examiner has ignored one or more the claimed limitations in order to reject the claim. As such, the rejection of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Quatrano et al. cannot stand.

Claim 26 recites, inter alia, “A method for collaborative computing in a distributed system having a web zone and a meeting zone, the method comprising: at the web zone allowing a plurality of client computers to access the distributed system via a global-area network; at the meeting zone supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers....” These limitations are not disclosed in Quatrano et al.

As discussed above with regard to Claim 19, there is simply no description whatsoever in Quatrano et al. of any “zone”—“web zone,” “meeting zone,” or otherwise. As such, the rejection of Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Quatrano et al. cannot stand.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection of Claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Quatrano et al. be withdrawn. Furthermore, because each of Claims 20-25 and 27-30 depend from one of Claims 19 and 26 and include further limitations, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Quatrano et al. also be withdrawn.

Claims 19 – 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0010741). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Like Quatrano et al., Stewart et al. does not have contain any description of a “zone,” much less the “web zone” and the “meeting zone” recited in Claims 19 and 26. Indeed, there is simply no description whatsoever in Quatrano et al. of any “zone”—“web zone,” “meeting zone,” or otherwise.

In addition, similar to the Examiner’s rejection based on Quatrano et al. as discussed above, in rejecting Claim 19 as being anticipated by Stewart et al., the Examiner does not

point to specific items of Stewart et al. for each of the claimed “meeting zone,” “meeting point,” “collaboration server, and “application server” of Claim 19. Instead, the Examiner refers generally, for example, to several figures of Stewart et al. as disclosing the “collaboration server” and the “application server.” Indeed, the Examiner cites the *same* figures (i.e., “Figs. 1, 3, 8”) for these separate claim limitations. Again, this is because Stewart et al. does not disclose each and every one of the limitations of Claim 19. The Examiner’s rejection of Claim 19 as being anticipated by Stewart et al. ignores one or more the claimed limitations. Because the Examiner’s rejection of Claim 26 relies on the same analysis as for Claim 19, the Examiner’s rejection of Claim 26 is likewise flawed. As such, this rejection of Claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. cannot stand.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. be withdrawn. Furthermore, because each of Claims 20-25 and 27-30 depend from one of Claims 19 and 26 and include further limitations, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) also be withdrawn.

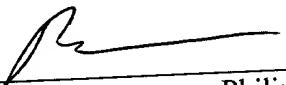
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

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